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# Mrs. Kirkpatrick rips court ploy

By Glenn Emery  
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The Nicaraguan government's attempt to seek redress in the World Court over the CIA-backed mining of Nicaraguan harbors was "blatantly propagandistic," United States Ambassador to the U.N. Jeane Kirkpatrick said yesterday.

"To portray Nicaragua as a victim in the current situation is a complete Orwellian inversion of what is really happening" in Central America, Mrs. Kirkpatrick told 300 members of the American Society of International Law (ASIL) and the American Bar Association.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick sidestepped the legal issues which have been raised by the mining and instead limited her remarks to attacking Nicaragua's Sandinista government for fomenting revolution throughout the region.

"For Nicaragua — a party that has initiated the violation of international law through the use of violence against its neighbors — to seek recourse before the International Court of Justice amounts to nothing more or less than a cynical effort aimed at influencing world opinion and congressional votes and performing all the other functions of propaganda," she said.

"It seeks, in short, to use the court in a blatantly propagandistic manner."



Photo by Bill Wilson/Washington Times

Jeane Kirkpatrick

Mrs. Kirkpatrick also accused the Sandinistas of illegally moving boundary posts into Honduras and then sending troops in to occupy the confiscated territory.

While some in the audience appeared to be in sympathy with many of Mrs. Kirkpatrick's remarks, others appeared disturbed and quietly shook their heads as the ambassador attempted to justify the Reagan administration's recent decision to withdraw from the juris-

diction of the U.N.'s International Court of Justice for two years on matters relating to American activities in Central America.

The ASIL issued a statement saying it "deplores" that decision.

The United States relied on the right of self-defense when it removed itself from the World Court's jurisdiction, Mrs. Kirkpatrick said, citing a past history of abiding by the court's decisions even when those rulings were not in America's interest.

The U.N. charter "is not a suicide pact," she said.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick also said the United States was not unique in exempting itself from the court's domain. Of the 158 charter members of the U.N., only 50 or so recognize the World Court, and many of those, she said, had found it necessary at one time or another to disassociate themselves temporarily from its jurisdiction.

The only solution to the malaise, Mrs. Kirkpatrick suggested, was uniform application of international law.

"As we confront the clear and present dangers in the contemporary world, we must recognize that the belief that the U.N. charter's principles of individual and collective self-dependence should require less than reciprocity is simply not tenable," she said.